Settlement of media issues

1694.SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether all issues held up with the Ministry regarding media would be addressed soon, in consultation with all stake-holders;

(b) whether consensus on contentious issue of Content Code, projecting India in a positive light to the world during Commonwealth Games and devising an acceptable mechanism to resolve demands of print and broadcasting industry, would be considered; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has constituted a media consultative committee for media facilitation under the Chairmanship of Secretary, I&B. The Committee includes media organisations, inclusive of both print and electronic media and also representatives of civil society.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:-

(i) To serve as a forum for regular consultations between Government and various professional media bodies.

(ii) To provide a platform for exchange of views on concerns of civil society.

(iii) To discuss concerns of media organisations on various regulatory/policy procedural matters.

(iv) The Committee will meet at least twice a year or as and when necessary. Wide consultations with stakeholders are required to arrive at broad consensus on the issue of Content Code. No time frame has been fixed for decision in the matter.

News and entertainment private TV channels

1695.SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news and entertainment private T.V. channels functioning in the country;

(b) the number of applications pending for opening new such channels from Assam; and

(c) the details of reasons for pendency of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) As on date, the Ministry has permitted 233 news and current affairs TV channels and 247 non-news and current affairs TV channels under uplinking and downlinking guidelines.

(b) One.